

band of people, a scattered house and a green field here and there, very little to eat and less to wear, the first few years of our new home-making was very trying. But with one aim, and having been driven from place to place on account of their religious belief, which made them almost as united as one large family, this little band of courageous people turned a desert into the beautiful city we now have." In 1864 (Dec. 10th) Sister Isabella was married to Brother Francis Armstrong and became the mother of eleven children, three boys and eight girls. At the present time (1914) she is the mother of thirty-seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In 1910 the society known as the Daughters of the Handcart Pioneers was organized with Hannah Lapiash as president. Two years later (1912) Sister Armstrong was chosen president of that society, and still acts in that capacity. "Of this position," writes Sister Armstrong, "I am very proud, as it has been one of the greatest pleasures of my life to help, in a small way, to build up an organization which will perpetuate the names of the most couragesous people the world has ever known".

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moved west with her brothers who were all prominent members of the "Mormon" community. For a penniless youth the Great West had many attractions and Feramorz Little at the age of 23 decided to follow his mother and relatives. In 1843 he left his native State and traveled on horseback to St. Louis, Mo., where he met his brother after a separation of ten years. There and in Illinois he engaged in farming, school teaching and the grocery business. At Nauvoo, in



1846, he married Fannie M. Decker (sister to Lucy and Clara Decker who were the wives of Pres. Brigham Young.) In 1850 Feramorz, desiring to see his mother and relatives who had emigrated to Utah, contracted with Mrs. Livingston and Kincaid, non-Mormon merchants of Salt Lake City, to freigh goods to this point from Ft. Kearney, on the Missouri river. At that time he was in business at St. Louis and not yet connected with the "Mormons". He arrived in Salt Lake City, Sept. 23, 1850. His objective point was California, but in finding ample scope for his ambition in Utah, he became a Latter-day Saint and subsequently one of the Bishopric of the Thirteenth Ward, in which part

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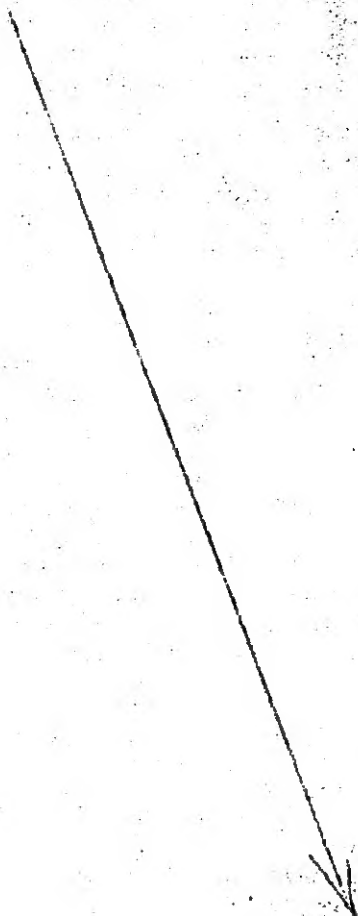
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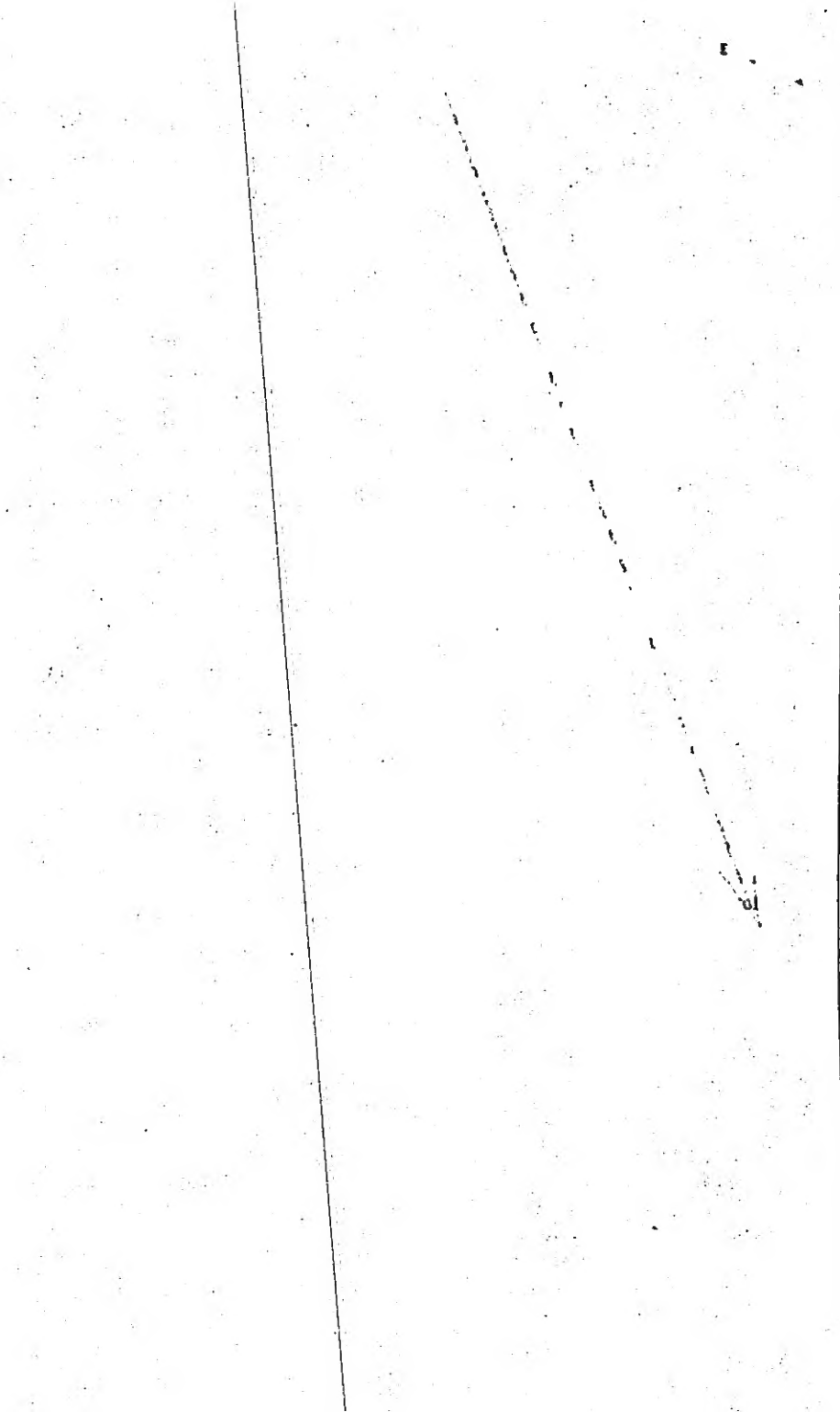
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of the City he resigned. In 1858 he married Miss Annis H. Little and Miss Julia A. Hampton. Soon after his arrival in Utah he showed his industrial activity by building a dam, the first across the Jordan river, at a cost of \$12,000, and constructing the first canal that took water from that stream for purposes of irrigation. In the summer of 1861 he contracted with S. H. Woodson to carry the United States mail between Salt Lake City and Fort Laramie, a distance of more than five hundred miles, with no settlement and but one trading post—Ft. Bridger—between. His partners in the contract, which lasted until January, 1863, were Chas. Dacker and Ephraim K. Hanks, his brother-in-law. During the two winters the mail carriers endured the greatest hardships, scarcity of food and fuel, blinding snow-storms and almost impassable mountains being a few of the difficulties encountered, but the trips were successfully made. Mr. Little's experience and forethought often saved his companions from suffering and death. In 1856 he contracted to carry the mail between Salt Lake City and Independence, Missouri. The carriers now traveled with mules and a light wagon; formerly pack animals had been used. They encountered the usual obstacles, making at times but eight miles a day, and subsisting on parched corn and raw buffalo meat. The trip to Independence consumed three months. Arriving here early in 1857, Bro. Little with Bro. Hanks, found the inhabitants in a state of excitement over the sensational anti-Mormon reports set in circulation by Judge Drummond, who with other slanderers of the people of Utah had made the nation believe that the "Mormons" were in a state of rebellion against the government. These reports Mr. Little denounced as false. Having occasion to go to Washington, D. C., to collect his money for carry-

ing the mails, he went on to New York where he wrote to the "Herald" of that city, refuting the foul calumnies. Continuing his industrial career, Mr. Little conducted a flouring mill at the mouth of Parley's canyon, making his home there in the early days. In his youth he had worked in the leather business, and this doubtless led him to engage in tanning at that place, where he had as his partners in this industry his uncle, Pres. Young, and John R. Winder. He also carried on blacksmithing and shoemaking and established a school for his children and those of his workmen. He built five saw mills in the canyons of the Wasatch range, and for years carried on a prosperous lumbering business. He was the builder of the "Utah penitentiary on its present site. In 1859 he brought large quantities of merchandise from Omaha to Salt Lake City and in 1863 was appointed emigration agent for the Church. Under his supervision five hundred teams were fitted out, carrying three thousand emigrants, and involving an outlay of one hundred thousand dollars. In 1865 he, with Pres. Young, purchased the Salt Lake House, then the leading local hotel. It was on the east side of Main Street, about midway between First and Second South streets. He remained its proprietor for several years. When the railroad came, he engaged as a contractor in building the Union Pacific Railroad, and subsequently was superintendent of the Utah Central and Utah Southern lines, holding the latter position until 1872, when he went abroad with Pres. Geo. A. Smith and party on their tour of Europe and the Orient. His extensive business interests were ably managed in his absence by his son, James T. Little. Accompanied by his daughter Clara (now Mrs. H. B. Clawson, jun.) he left home with the Palestine party in November, 1872. The object of this visit to that land was





to bless it, that the curse of barrenness and desolation might be removed, and it again become fruitful and fitted for the return of the scattered tribes of Israel. Accordingly on March 2, 1873, Pres. Smith and party ascended the Mount of Olives, where the sacred ceremony was performed. Going and coming they visited the principal cities and places of interest in Europe, Egypt and Asia Minor. In France they had an interview with President Thiers and visited the French Assembly. The Littles returned home in May, 1873. Two years later Feramor Little and his brother James filled a mission to the Eastern States, calling upon numerous relatives in New York, and obtaining a genealogical record of their father's ancestors. Liberal in their views, they were generally treated with courtesy while preaching, and succeeded in removing from the minds of the people many false impressions concerning "Mormonism". Among other points of interest touched by their travels were the Hill Cumorah, in Wayne county, N. Y., and the Temple site in Jackson co., Missouri. During the last few years of his life Bro. Little occupied various positions of public trust. He was one of the Board of Regents of the University of Deseret and a member of the Salt Lake City council. In 1876 he was elected mayor of Salt Lake City, serving in that capacity, as stated, for three consecutive terms. During the period of his mayoralty the Salt Lake and Jordan Canal was constructed under his supervision, the streets improved, the water works extended, and the purchase of Liberty Park and Pioneer Square effected. In the latter part of his life, he gave special attention to banking. He was a director of the Deseret National Bank and virtually one of its founders. At the time of his death he was its vice-president. He was also a director of the Ogden National Bank, and

was likewise interested in Z. C. M. I. In June, 1881, Bro. Little sustained a severe loss in the death of his wife, Fannie. As already stated, he had married two other wives; but he was again a single man when he married Rebecca E. Mantle. While visiting the Blackfoot Ranch, of which he was president, he was stricken with a severe illness, and it was aggravated by the journey home, which required three days. Typhoid fever set in, terminating his earthly existence Aug. 14, 1887. His death was universally regretted. He was recognized as one of Utah's ablest business men and foremost citizens. As a man of honesty and integrity, he manifested eminent administrative ability, and marked devotion to the public welfare. He was loved by both rich and poor for his keen sense of justice and great kindness of heart. Disliking ostentation, he distributed large sums in benevolence and charity of which only his family and most intimate friends were aware. Among the evidences of his philanthropic spirit is a row of comfortable cottages, built by him for the poor of the Thirteenth Ward and still serving the purpose for which they were erected. Feramor Little was essentially a self-made man, indebted for his success to a kind Providence and the sterling qualities of his nature. (Principally culled from Whitney's History of Utah).

**LITTLE, Rebecca Ellen Mantle,** wife of Feramor Little, was born Aug. 12, 1862, on the Church farm, Salt Lake county, Utah. She was the daughter of Llewelyn Mantle and Catherine Watkins and was baptized when about eight years of age. From her earliest youth she was of a very ambitious character, and struggled to obtain an education, although handicapped in every way. She worked unceasingly until she was able to teach school after which her whole time was occu-

pled in teaching and further educating herself. She was graduated from the normal school under Dr. John R. Park, and was teaching a school in the Thirteenth Ward when she first met Feramor Little. They were married in July, 1882, and two children were born to them (Vivian L. and Catherine

tion and up to the time of her death she kept abreast with the educational systems of the world.



L.). Sister Little continued her studies after her marriage and was graduated from the University of Utah in 1899, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. About this time she became associated with a number of woman's clubs and was the founder of the Authors Club. On one occasion Sister Little was chosen for the National Council of Woman and gave an address at the convention in Chicago, Ill. She was a regent of the University of Utah for about ten years, served on the general board of the Relief Society and on the Stake Board of Ensign Stake. The death of her husband was a great blow to her and in order to overcome her sorrow she studied music and art and became very efficient in those lines. Sister Little died in Salt Lake City May 29, 1909. In history she ranks as one of the best educated women of Utah; she was unceasing in her determination to gain an educa-

LITTLE, Rebecca Ellen, a member of the General Board of Relief Society from Oct. 5, 1904, to Sept. 1, 1905, was born Aug. 12, 1852, on the Church farm in Salt Lake Co., Utah, a daughter of Llewellyn Mantle and Catherine Watkins. She was very ambitious for education and struggled unceasingly to obtain it. She graduated from the Normal School under Dr. John R. Park, taught school in the 13th Ward, and graduated from the University of Utah with the degree of Bachelor of Science. She was the founder of the Authors' Club in Salt Lake City and spoke in Chicago, Ill., at a convention of the National Council of Women. She was a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Utah ten years. For some time she was a member of the Ensign Stake Relief Society Board previous to being called to the General Board of Relief Society. After her husband's death, she studied music and art. In history she ranks as one of the best educated women of Utah. She was married to Feramor Little in July, 1882, and became the mother of two children. She died May 29, 1909. (See also Biographical Encyclopedia, Vol. 2, p. 487.)

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with honors. Soon after becoming a convert to "Mormonism" in 1851, Charles took sick and continued to grow worse until his life was paired off and the doctor said he would die. His father's heart was broken and he exclaimed: "There is nothing on earth like this and I can get no more of it." Charles died the next day. Latter-day Saints are for him and his





# Feramorz Little

## Pioneer Mayor

*Allen H. Lundgren, Canyon Rim Chapter*  
On the walls of the City and County Building, Salt Lake City, Utah, hangs the portrait of one of our early pioneers, Feramor Little. Three times mayor of Salt Lake, Feramor Little portrays the indomitable spirit of the early settlers of the State of Utah.

The man, according to the biographical sketch written by his brother, James A. Little, experienced the hardships of orphanage and poverty, as well as responsible callings and great wealth. Essentially, a self made man, he owes his success to what his family calls a kindly providence and sterling qualities of nature.

Born on the 14th of June 1820 to James Little and Susan Young, a sister of Brigham Young, this man is a descendant of a well documented line, back to Thomas Little, whose record shows that he traveled with William, Prince of Orange, to Ireland in 1690.

While the family connection with Brigham Young, who first saw the Book of Mormon in 1830, had a great influence on the Little family, Feramor did not join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints until after he arrived in the Salt Lake Valley on September 23, 1850. It was not until 1853 that he was baptized.

The life of Feramor Little was colored by much travel. As early as 1843 he went to St. Louis. In 1844 he experienced Nauvoo. With Brigham Young, Willard Smith and other church leaders he crossed the Mississippi when that group designed the trek westward. Mr. Little, however, went back to St. Louis where he established a grocery business.

In the Salt Lake Valley, when he finally arrived, he bought an extensive piece of property west of the Jordan River, built a dam in the river costing \$12,000, and irrigated the land. He held this valuable farm until his death.

Feramorz Little and Fannie Marie Decker were married on February 12, 1846 by Brigham Young. Feramor Little fathered twenty one children. He was married to Julia A. Hampton, Annie E. Little, and Rebecca E. Mantle, as well.

Exciting were his adventures as a young man when in 1851 he contracted to carry the mail across the plains. His responsibility to the postal service was

to carry the mail from Salt Lake City to Independence, Missouri. This he did for two years and eleven months. The assignment was filled with many recorded misadventures and hardships, including serious brushes with death during heavy winters, an injured ankle which immobilized him for a time, miserable camps in which he nearly perished, attacks by wolves, and teams of horses and mules which survived on beef in lieu of normal fodder.

In 1853 he bought an interest, with Brigham Young, in a flour mill in Sugarhouse Ward, located in south east Salt Lake. Then, in 1854 he, with Brigham Young and others, became interested in the lumber business. Feramor supervised the building of the Big Cottonwood Canyon road and five sawmills on the canyon stream. Later on, he established the firm Little and Decker, which became the leading lumber company in Utah. More than a million feet of lumber were produced annually, aiding the growing city of Salt Lake.

The First Presidency of the Church, in 1863, called Mr. Little to attend to the outfitting of that season's emigration to Utah. This he did with distinction traveling back and forth across the plains, providing required items for the long trek west.

In 1872, George A. Smith was called by Brigham Young to gather a party which would travel to Palestine to follow-up Orson Hyde's historic dedication of that land in 1842. Feramor Little was honored with a call to go. His daughter, Claire, traveled with the group. The itinerary took the company to England, France, Italy, Egypt and Palestine. The return trip was through Constantinople, Vienna, and England again. The year long journey ended when they arrived home on May 21, 1873, the company having fulfilled assigned goals and objectives. This odyssey was well documented by detailed letters.

Feramorz was called on a mission to Independence, Chicago, New York and the Hill Cumorah in 1875. While

away, he was elected to the position of Director in the Utah Southern Railroad Extension Company.

His career climaxed when he was elected Mayor of Salt Lake City on 14 February 1876, a position he held for three terms. In 1876, he built a residence on the corner of First South and Second East for \$40,000. It was known as the most elegant and substantial private residence in Salt Lake City, rivaling some say, Brigham Young's beautiful Amelia Palace on South Temple Street.

During his tour of duty as mayor, many significant projects were undertaken. Among them were the establishment of Liberty Park, the Jordan and Salt Lake City Canal Extension of water works, a park by City Hall, improved streets and a public home for the poor in the area of the 13th Ward.

Death came to the 61 year old Feramor Little on 15 August 1887. As was the practice then, the funeral was held in his handsome residence. Church leaders, lay members, and most of the prominent gentile business men of the city were represented at the event. He was known for integrity and uprightness, and a determination to administer the affairs of the municipality faithfully, honestly and to the best of his ability. □

*Note: Feramor Little was the great grandfather of Ruth Horne Lundgren, wife of the author.*

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## Contributors

Because the editing staff of the Pioneer would like to produce the magazine in a timely and cost efficient manner, we will no longer be accepting items beyond the deadline date. Also, handwritten items will no longer be published. Please do not send articles in all Upper Case or in unusual type faces and please label all pictures on the back.

We are receiving articles that are not timely. We want to publish more items of a current nature, please keep us informed on your chapter.

Many of you are using computers to write your articles, it would be extremely helpful if you would submit your article on disk along with a printout. Please label your disks clearly, so we can return them.

Thank you for your assistance and all your wonderful contributions. Keep them coming!! □

**KEY BANK**  
America's neighborhood bank<sup>SM</sup>